

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule capable of binding to an envelope glycoprotein of an enveloped virus, [and] wherein the binding of said nucleic acid molecule results in neutralizing said virus.
2. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein said virus is HIV.
3. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~or claim 2,~~ wherein said virus is HIV-1.
4. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in any one of claim[s] 1 [to 3],~~ wherein [the] said envelope glycoprotein is gp120.
5. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in any one of claim[s] 1 [to 4],~~ wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid set forth in ~~is selected from those listed in Table 1~~ SEQ ID NO. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27 or combination thereof.
6. (Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in any one of claim[s] 1[-5],~~ wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises modified pyrimidine or purine nucleotide[s] bases.
7. (Amended) [A] The modified nucleic acid molecule ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6, wherein said pyrimidine is modified bases ~~are modified by any one or more of the following means: (i) pyrimidine in the 6 or 8 position, or purine 5 modification with I, Br, Cl, CH₃ ; (ii) pyrimidine 2 position modification with NH₃ ; (iii) pyrimidine modifications 06-CH₃, N6-CH₃ and N2-CH₃ ; (iv) 2'sugar modifications; (v) 3'and/or 5'capping.~~
8. (Amended) A method for screening for potential therapeutic targets utilizing the nucleic acid molecule ~~as defined in any one of claim[s] [1 to 7]~~ 5.
9. (Amended) [A] The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said method further involves comprising competitive inhibition.
10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~at least one~~ the nucleic acid molecule of ~~as claimed in claim 5. any one of claims 1-7, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients.~~

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11. (Amended) ~~The use of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of~~ A medicament for use in the treatment of HIV infection, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.
12. (Amended) A method for the treatment of HIV infection comprising administering an effective amount of ~~at least one~~ the nucleic acid molecule as ~~defined in any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 5 to a subject in need thereof.
13. (New) The modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said purine is modified in the 5 position.
14. (New) The modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said said pyrimidine is modified in the 2 position.
15. (New) The modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, wherein purine is modified in the 5 position with $-\text{CH}_3$, I, Br, or Cl
16. (New) The modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein pyrimidine is modified in the 2 position with $-\text{NH}_2$, $\text{O}^6\text{-CH}_3$, $\text{N}^6\text{-CH}_3$ or $\text{N}^2\text{-CH}_3$.
17. The modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein pyrimidine is modified in the 2 position with NH_2 , F or OCH_3 .
18. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.